

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## CHURCH AFFAIRS

From the Department of Church Affairs comes announcement of a consultation at the end of April, with Dr. Bridgeston, General Secretary of the WCC Committee on Faith and Order. The Purpose of the consultation will be to discuss the question of "church unity." The Department, in collaboration with the Council "secretariat," is making ready for publication the latest documents on the theme of the coming Third WCC Assembly in New Delhi. Another item of interest in this Department's report is that about the selection of the committee to direct the work of the new Commission for the Study of Other Religions. The members are Prof. Tetsutaro Ariga of Kyoto University, the Rev. Tsunetaro Miyakoda of the Japan Bible Society, Prof. Masutoshi Doi of Doshisha University, the Rev. Gosaku Okada of the United Church, the Rev. Keitaro Nishimura of the Nippon Seikokai, the Rev. Charles Germany of the IBC, Dr. Chitose Kishi of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Harry Thomsen of the Christian Mission to Buddhists (Director of the present Institute for the Study of Religions in Kyoto), and the Rev. Raymond Hammer of the Central Theological Seminary of the Seikokai.

## HOME AND FAMILY LIFE

The Christian Home and Family Life Commission of the NCC plans another first, in Japan, as well as in its own history: The First Christian Home Life Summer School, the exact date and place of which





are to be announced later. The summer school will accomodate up to fifty persons and will be divided into a section for unmarried young men and women and one for young married couples. It will give training for marriage counseling as well as training in Christian home life. And the lectures, discussion and other activities will be directed by Christian medical doctors and professional counselors.

Other notable items from the Commission's report included announcement of the establishment of a Family Problems Study Committee by the Baptist Convention of Japan; and the announcement of the distribution of the report-pamphlet on the highly successful Ninth All-Japan Family Life Conference in Atami last fall. The Committee on Woman's Affairs of the Commission reported that plans for the World Day of Prayer, February 17th, were progressing well. The special intention of prayer this year is, "Forward Through The Ages", and the offering of the Day will be devoted to the relief of Hongkong refugees.

### SOCIAL PROBLEMS

A gratifying response to the year-end appeal for the relief of typhoon victims in Pakistan was reported by the Social Problem Commission. This appeal which was planned and carried out by Japan Church World Service brought over ¥ 327,000. contributed by all denominationsthrough their several social welfare committees; the sum was immediately changed into dollars (\$909) and sent to Karachi.

There will be special services in Tokyo, at the Union Church at 2:00 in the afternoon, and at Shibuya Church of the United Church of Christ, at 6:00 in the evening. Miss Helen Topping will preach at the former; and Miss Shinohara will preach at the latter. The World Day of Prayer joins millions of people the world over, in some 145 countries and regions, 'in prayer and supplication for the Grace and Strength to "go forward together in His Name."

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Day which began in 1887 when a group of American ladies was inspired to start a movement which would 'encircle and bind the peoples of the world in prayer.'

### ECUMENICAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Committee on Ecumenical Scholarships has announced the choice of fellows for the next period. Those who will study in Europe are the following: the Rev. Mitsunori Kawamura, pastor of the Tsurumaki Church of the United Church of Christ, a graduate in Linguistics of Tokyo University and of the Tokyo Theological University with a master's degree. He will specialize in New Testament studies. The Rev. Nobuyoshi Kikuya, graduate of the Nippon Christian Theological Higher School and The San Francisco Theological Seminary where he took his S.T.M. He is presently studying Old Testament at St. Andrew's College. The Rev. Yuji Ishii, pastor of the Japan Baptist League and graduate, with master's degree, from the Theological Department of Doshisha University. He will major in Systematic Theology.







Those who are to study in the United States are: Miss Sumiko Chikagawa of the Nippon Seikokai, graduate from the Keio University, Department of Library Science. She is presently employed in the library of the International Missionary Council, and will continue her studies in library science as well as do work in religious education. Miss Ruth Higo, graduate of the English Literature Department of Aoyama Gakuin University, and now employed by the Y.W.C.A. She will major in religious education. The Rev. Masakatsu Iga, of the United Church. Mr. Iga is a graduate of the Economic Department of Matsuyama University and has been employed by the Rural Evangelism Study Commission of the United Church; he will specialize in the problems of rural economy, with special attention to the agricultural problems of under-developed countries.

#### CHURCH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The Church School Department reports that the Annual Church School Teachers' Assembly and Sunday School Pupils' Rally which are to be held this year in Nagoya, May 3-4, and May 5, are being planned by a local committee in Nagoya composed of pastors, representatives of the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and of Christian schools in the vicinity. The Assembly will be held at Kinjo Girl's School.

The Departments's annual Church School Teachers' Training Conference will be planned and administered this summer in conjunction with the Annual AVACO Workshop.

A new central committee for curriculum has been appointed and will meet for consultation with the Rev. G. Harvey, on January 20th. The Rev. Mr. Harvey, Traveling Overseas Teacher of the Methodist Church, USA, has been in Korea since the end of 1960 as curriculum consultant. On the evening of January 20, the Tokyo Branch of the Church School Department will sponsor a lecture by Mr. Harvey for the Church School Teachers of the Tokyo area, at the Ginza Church.

#### DR. SCHWEITZER RESPONDS TO GIFT

One of the most gratifying experiences in the past year's activities of the Church School Department was the generous response to the appeal for contributions to Dr. Albert Schweitzer's work in Lambarene, Africa. The campaign was inaugurated during Religious Education Week in September, 1960, and continued through the end of the year, with a grand total of nearly two and a half million Yen contributed. The objective of the gift is to assist in the building of Dr. Schweitzer's new hospital in Lambarene.

Dr. Minoru Nomura who spent several years in service with Dr. Schweitzer made a special trip to Lambarene to tell him of the Japanese children's proposed gift to his work, following attendance at an international conference on Tuberculosis held in Vienna last fall. On hearing of the gift, Dr. Schweitzer sent the following letter, through Dr. Nomura, to the Japanese children; it reads in part, "I am most grateful to the children of the Japanese kindergartens and schools who will make such a generous gift to my hospital in Lambarene. I am deeply impressed by this gift from the children and the help and joy it can bring to the patients in my





hospital. I shall tell them where it comes from." He closes his letter with, "Nachmals tausend Dank von uns Allen;" ("Once more, a thousand thanks from us all.")

When Dr. Nomura told Dr. Schweitzer about the gift and explained the activity of Religious Education Week and its follow-up, the latter expressed surprise that the children of Japan should take such interest in him. He said he was anxious lest they have a wrong impression of him as a greater man than he truly is; and that he wishes to be regarded as just an ordinary Christian.

Presently a Japanese Christian doctor, Dr. Isao Takahashi, is working at Lambarene. He has the care of 250 Leper patients some of whom he has to spoon-feed, as it were. He has told about the many letters Dr. Schweitzer receives from those who want to work with him. Such help will always be welcome, but those who would help must bear in mind the difficulties of caring for the seriously ill, the technical skill required, and the special need for facility in English and French.

#### ACACO

From AVACO comes the announcement that it is beginning to consider and plan for the expansion of facilities to work in television. It is imperative that audio-visual work in the Church make fullest possible use of this medium. And it is recognized that while this entails a great increase of expense, for equipment and programming, the challenge has to be faced.

AVACO further announced the forth coming trip of its executive director, Mr. Matthew Ogawa, to Africa and the Near East for inspection and consultation about the churches' audio-visual work in these areas.



